IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE DEC 26 2007

Applicant:

STOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/038,894

Filed:

March 11, 1998

For:

METHODS OF DIAGNOSIS AND TRIAGE USING CELL ACTIVATION MEASURES

Art Unit:

1651

Examiner:

Meller, M.

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I hereby certify that this paper and the attached papers are being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, BOX CPA, Washington, D.C. 20231

Carnetha Gonzalez

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED IN CONNECTION WITH A CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION (CPA)

DEC 1 9 2000

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to paper, mailed December 12, 2000, and to the Office Action, mailed March 20, 2000, please amend the application as follows:

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at page 11, lines 4 and 5, by deleting the sentence "Neutrophil activation by the pancreatic homogenate has been found to be inhibited by protease inhibitors."

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9/25-31, 39 and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) A method of [treating or] improving treatment outcome or reducing risk of treatment or reducing the risk of developing [preventing] disorders [mediated by accompanied by inappropriate cellular activation, comprising, prior to effecting treatment for the disorder, administering an effective amount of a protease inhibitor, wherein:

the amount is effective in lowering cell activation, thereby improving treatment outcome and reducing the risk of treatment of the disorders; and

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